

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### ***\$1 million grant to help over 125 laid off Bay Area manufacturing workers find jobs in growing life sciences field***

**Sacramento** – The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's (LWDA) Employment Development Department issued a grant of nearly \$1 million to help more than 125 unemployed Bay Area manufacturing workers find high-paying jobs with a future in the rapidly growing life sciences field.

"This grant will benefit not only laid-off workers but also life sciences companies searching for well trained job applicants," said LWDA Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. "The Bay Area's life sciences companies have been growing briskly; this initiative enables us to move quickly to retrain manufacturing workers to meet the biotechnology industry's need for skilled workers."

The \$997,834 grant is awarded to the Biotech Workforce Network, a consortium of five workforce investment agencies: the County of Alameda, the County of Contra Costa, the County of San Mateo, the City of Richmond and the San Jose/Silicon Valley Workforce Investment Network.

The grant builds on the success of the award-winning biotechnology training program developed by the San Mateo County and Alameda County Workforce Investment Boards. It will provide more than 125 laid-off workers with the tools they need to move into jobs with entry level salaries of \$35,000 to \$45,000 in one of the leading growth industries in the Bay Area.

Over the next 12 months, workers will receive skills preparation services, industry-tailored classroom training, internships to be paid by participating life sciences and biotechnology employers, and on-the-job training.

Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor's 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of LWDA's Employment Development Department.

For more information about this project, contact the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board at (510) 259-3842.

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